

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant is canceling claims and complying with requirements of form expressly set forth in the Final Rejection. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.116(b)(2). With the entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8-13 and 16 will be pending in this patent application.

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

In this paper, Applicant is amending page 11 of the specification to provide clear antecedent basis for the language used in claim 1; Applicant is also making editorial changes to this paragraph so that it better conforms to accepted English idiom. The substantive change to the specification corresponds to the language that the Examiner helpfully suggested. No new matter is introduced by the amendments to the specification.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's objection to the specification has been obviated by the amendments to the specification presented herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's recognition of claim 16 as being allowable and of claims 1-6 and 8-13 as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112 stated in the Final Rejection. For reasons presented below, Applicant submits that, with the amendments to the specification and claims made herein, all of claims 1-6, 8-13 and 16 are allowable.

SECTION 112, 1ST PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant traverses this rejection insofar as it might be deemed applicable to any of claims 1-6 and 8-13 as now presented.

The Examiner stated that the original disclosure did not provide support for the language, "without branching off," in claim 1, the open-ended width of the middle portion of the auxiliary oblique groove in claim 1 and the language, "provided with no further groove," in claims 14 and 15.

In this Amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 14 and 15 and is amending claim 1 to strike the language that the Examiner identified as being unsupported by the original disclosure. In place of the language stricken from claim 1, Applicant is adding "whereby the auxiliary oblique groove is connected to said adjacent axially outer circumferential groove and said one of the axially adjacent main oblique grooves only." Applicant is also amending claim 1 to specify a finite upper limit for the width of the middle portion of the auxiliary oblique groove, as suggested by the Examiner.

As shown, for example, in Fig. 2, the auxiliary grooves 6 connect only with axially outer groove 4 and main oblique groove 5.

Applicant submits that the amendments to claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 14 and 15 made in this paper obviate the rejection based on 35 USC § 112, first paragraph.

If the Examiner finds the amendment to claim 1 to be unacceptable, Applicant requests that he contact Frederick R. Handren, Reg. No. 32,874, at the telephone number of the undersigned provided below, so that, for example, an Examiner's Amendment could be discussed that could resolve the 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, issues.

SECTION 112, 2ND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant traverses this rejection insofar as it might be deemed applicable to any of claims 1-6 and 8-13 as now presented.

In claim 1, "thereof," in the next-to-last paragraph has been changed to --of the wide end portion--, as the Examiner suggested. Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the "without branching off" language that the Examiner found indefinite, while adding language that more clearly defines the auxiliary oblique groove.

Applicant submits that the amendments to claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 14 and 15 made in this paper obviate the rejection based on 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

OTHER PRIOR ART

Applicants have considered the other prior art cited by the Examiner. Applicant is not commenting on this prior art, because it was not applied against the claims in this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments, observations and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection and the rejections stated in the Final Rejection and recognize claims 1-6, 8-13 and 16 as allowable.

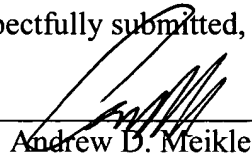
If unresolved matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Frederick R. Handren, Reg. No. 32,874, at the telephone number of the undersigned provided below, so that these matters can be resolved expeditiously.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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